



PREVAILING WAGE SEMINARS



WAGE AND HOUR DIVISION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR



Davis-Bacon Wage Determination Surveys

DBA Surveys

- **All construction types.**
- **Conducted by WHD Branch of Wage Surveys.**
- **Survey - Schedule and Status on WHD Web Site:**

<http://www.dol.gov/whd/govcontracts/wagesurveys.htm>

Some Reasons to Survey

- **Age of current WD**
- **Level of construction activity**
- **Number of conformances**

Three Basic Elements

- **Survey Area – primarily statewide
(rates will be issued by locality- typically by
county).**
- **Construction Type (projects of a similar character).**
- **Survey timeframe.**

Obtaining & Compiling Wage and Fringe Benefit Data

- **Payment data on construction projects from construction contractors and other interested parties.**
- **Certified payrolls provided by federal agencies from Davis-Bacon contracts (supplements data from other sources, where appropriate).**

Wage Survey Process

- **Notification of contractors and interested parties;**
- **Non-respondent follow-up; and**
- **Data collection, analysis and clarification.**

Wage Survey Process

- **The prevailing wage includes both wages and fringe benefits**
- **Basic hourly rate calculation:**
 - **Majority Rate: More than 50% of workers receive a single rate.**
 - **Weighted Average Rate: No majority rate is paid.**

NOTE: If insufficient data is received for a classification, no rate will be recommended.

Wage Survey Process

- **Fringe Benefit Calculation:**
 - **Majority of workers must first receive a fringe benefit:**
 - **Majority rate; or**
 - **Weighted average rate.**

Survey Sufficiency Criteria

- Sufficient data must be received for at least half the **KEY CLASSES** of a construction type
- Classifications determined necessary for each construction type, vary by type and number accordingly

Key Classes for Building Construction

- Boilermakers
- Bricklayers
- Carpenters
- Cement Masons
- Electricians
- Heat & Frost
Insulators
- Iron Workers
- Laborers - Common
- Painters
- Pipefitters
- Plumbers
- Power Equipment
Operators
- Roofers
- Sheet Metal Workers
- Tile Setters
- Truck Drivers

Key Classes for Heavy & Highway Construction

- Carpenters
- Cement Masons
- Electricians
- Iron Workers
- Laborers - Common
- Painters
- Power Equipment Operators
- Truck Drivers

Key Classes for Residential Construction

- Bricklayers
- Carpenters
- Cement Masons
- Electricians
- Iron Workers
- Laborers-Common
- Painters
- Plumbers
- Equipment Operators
- Roofers
- Sheet Metal Workers
- Truck Drivers

Wage Survey Process

- **Verification procedures;**
- **Survey results to NO; and**
- **Wage determination publication.**

Impact of Non-Participation in the

- **Prevailing rates based on a limited amount of data.**
- **Prevailing rates based on data from outside the county where work is being performed.**

Impact of Non-Participation in the Survey

- Prevailing wage rates and fringe benefits that are less likely to reflect the wage rates and fringe benefits that Contractors pay their employees.
- Wage decisions with missing classifications of employees creating **uncertainty in the bidding process.**

Impact of Survey Participation

Accuracy and completeness of wage determinations is dependent upon:

- **Survey participation by contractors, unions, contractor associations, federal agencies and other interested parties; and**
- **The level of construction activity.**

Impact of Survey Participation

- **Attendance Survey Briefings**
- **Submitting WD10s**
- **Submitting subcontractor lists**

**Will increase Quantity and Quality of
Wage Determinations.**

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